

Lasource-Durand House  
St. Mary's Road, Behind Bequet-Ribault House  
Ste. Genevieve  
Ste. Genevieve Co., MO

HABS No. MO-1281

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM  
FOLIOS

Addendum to  
Lasource-Durand House  
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Ste. Genevieve  
Ste. Genevieve County  
Missouri

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
LASOURCE-DURAND HOUSE

Location: St. Mary's Road, Ste. Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve  
County, Missouri 63670

Present Owner: Royce and Margaret Wilhauk

Present Use: Undergoing restoration for use as an historic  
house museum open to the public

Significance: This house presents an example of creole  
architecture constructed of vertical logs at  
various phases. Two early phases (1807 and 1814)  
preserve slightly different types of vertical log  
construction and some fine interior detail,  
probably associated with phase II. Phase I, a  
single cell structure, may be the only surviving  
example of the once numerous one-room creole  
houses of Ste. Genevieve.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: c. 1807, enlarged c. 1814.  
Francois Durand purchased the lot in 1813, one  
week before his marriage to Marie Louise Labruyere  
from the heirs of Francois Moreau. Tree-ring  
analysis suggests that the original one-room house  
was built in 1807 (phase I) and that this was  
enlarged in 1814 (phase II).
2. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description:  
Part of Survey No. 272, lot #14  
Chain of title:
  - a. August 17, 1813, deed from the heirs of  
Francois Moreau: J. B. Vossier, Valle, Joseph  
Moreau, Peirre Anbuchan to Francois Durand  
for 45 piastre. Part of a larger survey  
confirmed to Francois Moreau, and sold to  
Louis Lasource by his mother, Cecille  
Choquette Lasource Moreau, wife of Francois  
Moreau. Deed book C, page 161.
  - b. September 23, 1862, general warranty deed  
from Francis Durand and Judith, wife to  
Francis Felix Larose, in consideration of  
love and affection and sum of \$5.00:  
"several tracts of land including: Lot 14 in  
S. # 272 confirmed to Francis Moreau  
containing 2 1/4 arpents being same lot of  
ground on which the said Durand now resides  
and being same lot purchased by said Durand  
from the heirs of F. Moreau, the said Francis

Felix LaRose hereby agrees in consideration of the foregoing gift and conveyance to pay debts of F. Durand due by him on this day also agrees that the said F. Durand and Judith, his wife, shall remain and occupy the dwelling house on said land and in which they now live during their natural lives, free of charge, and that the said F. Durand and Judith, his wife during their natural lives and furnish them with such medical attendance as they may need. And also do all acts towards to the said F. Durnad and Judith as will make their lives happy and comfortable." Deed book, page 340. Cecille Choquette, was married first to Francois Regis Lasource, and they were the parents of Louis Lasource, the unregistered owner mentioned in the 1813 deed. Following Francois Regis Lasource's death in 1783, Cecille Choquette married Francois Moreau who had been granted a large tract in this part of the community, survey no. 272, of which this lot 14 was a part. Cecille Choquette was related to the Deguire dit Larose family through her mother, and hence in the family tree of Francis Felix Larose who acquires the property in 1862.

c. Their property was sold at Public Sale, February 8, 1921. It eventually became part of an industrial site owned by Robert Rottler who donated the house in 1984 to the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve subject to removal from the site. The present owners acquired the house from the Foundation, and moved it to its present site.

3. Original plans and construction: The original structure was a one-room building, approximately 19' long by 17'wide.

4. Alterations and additions: There have been three phases of construction: phase I consisted of a single room. Phase II added two rooms to the original structure one to the side and one to the rear. Phase III removed the small, rear room added in phase II, and then added three additional rooms to the rear for a total of five rooms. Because the majority of architectural fabric from phases II and III has been destroyed, the architectural information which follows will apply to the original, one-room structure only.

B. Historical Context:

Ste. Genevieve was one of the most important French colonial settlements in the mid-Mississippi valley, and the one that best preserves the architecture of that period. Several smaller creole structures were built along the south branch of Gaboury Creek of which this is a characteristic example. When the building was moved it was possible to examine its construction in great detail and to see that it was originally a one-room house. Early land records indicate that these were common, but this may be the only surviving example, certainly the best example.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is probably the only example in Ste. Genevieve of a one-room structure constructed of vertical logs on a stone foundation, what the French called "poteaux sur sole." Its plan, general form, construction and detail are characteristic of creole architecture.
2. Condition of fabric: under restoration.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One story on an elevated cellar with a high attic, 18'-11" across the front by 16'-10 1/2" deep.
2. Foundations: Random cut stone, 2' thick, carried up to 5' above grade on a slightly slopping site.
3. Walls: Vertical, hewn, white oak logs, mortised into a sill, infilled with bouzillage, originally plastered or sheathed with horizontal clapboard, now removed.
4. Structural system, framing: Vertical log structure on a sill carrying a plate, hewn logs closely spaced (some more closely than others), floor beams mortised into the sill and the plate. The original roof probably had hewn rafters with collar beams spaced about 3' on center. These were replaced by the roof added in phase III, and partly reused as bracing. A modern truss roof of historic silhouette has been placed over the original one room house since its move in 1984.
5. Porches: Restoration plans call for front and rear porches.

6. Chimneys: The foundation of a very large chimney survived under one end of the one-room house of phase I. By the time of phase III, it only carried a small chimney for a stove.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Entrances near the center of both long sides open into the structure.

b. Windows and shutters: Two double hung windows with two lights over two lights.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Modern truss roof, no shingles at the present.

b. Cornice, eaves: Slight projection.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: A one-room structure which preserves the basic unit and plan for creole architecture.

b. Cellar: In the original location, there was a cellar under the phase I portion of the house, reached by an outside cellar stair, and under part of the phase III addition. Only crawl space in the new location.

c. Attic: simple unfinished space.

2. Stairways: none.

3. Flooring: wood flooring.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: plaster.

5. Openings: before moving in 1984, doorways and window of various periods survived in the house.

a. Doorways and doors: earliest examples were four panelled doors in doorways with simple molded trim.

b. Windows: double hung windows, most with two-eight sash, two six-light sash survived.

6. Decorative features and trim: Evidence of a simple molded chair rail and base board survive in phase I.
7. Mechanical equipment:  
Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: A fireplace opening located in the interior partition wall contained a Federal period mantelpiece with fluted stiles which has been preserved. It is one of the finest examples of this period found in Ste. Genevieve.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: In 1984 when the house was threatened with destruction, it was acquired by Royce and Margaret Wilhauk who moved phase I intact to the site of the Bequet-Ribault House (HABS No. MO-1114) where it is being restored as an historic house museum. The 1814 addition (or phase II construction) was dismantled and is preserved in the new location. Later additions were demolished.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bibliography:

- A. Primary and unpublished sources: Land records in the Ste. Genevieve County Courthouse.
- B. Secondary and published sources:

Ekberg, Carl J., Colonial Ste. Genevieve, An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier (Gerald, Missouri: The Patrice Press, 1985).

Franzwa, Gregory M., The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1967).

Peterson, Charles E., "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," The Missouri Historical Review, XXXV:2 (January 1941), pp. 207-232.

Porterfield, Neil H. "Ste. Genevieve, Missouri," in John Francis McDermott, editor, Frenchmen and French Ways in the Mississippi Valley (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969), pp. 141-177.

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, Missouri, A Guide to the "Show Me" State (Missouri State Highway Department, 1941).

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) team of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, under the direction of Historical Architect Thomas G. Keohan. Documentation was carried out during the summer of 1985 at the HABS field office in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, by project supervisor Osmund Overby (University of Missouri-Columbia), project architects James Q. Marsh (Hemet, California), William D. Cesaletti (Keaau, Hawaii), and Terance A. Gruenhagen (North Dakota State University), and project historian Claudia A. Barbero (University of Missouri-Columbia).

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